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NARRATIVE SUMMARY
NORTHEAST GRAVEL COMPANY
BELMONT, MICHIGAN

The Northeast Gravel Company is located in a rural area approximately eight miles north-northeast of Grand Rapids, Michigan in Kent County. The 20-acre disposal site is situated at the northern end of a 150-acre parcel. Extensive sand and gravel deposits underlie the site and adjoining area. The site is approximately 7000 feet east of the confluence of the Grand and Rogue rivers. The site was originally identified by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) in a Preliminary Assessment submitted to the U. S. EPA.

The site history prior to 1966 is unclear. Northeast Gravel Company purchased the property in 1966, at which time some landfilling of waste had already occurred. After acquisition of the property, the company proceeded to landfill sludge and electroplating wastes. Due to numerous violations, MDNR halted landfilling operations at the site in 1976. The property is currently being used by Northeast Gravel Company as a gravel wash process center.

During landfilling, Northeast Gravel Company accepted dewatered sludge from Wolverine Worldwide Company, a leather tanner located in Rockford, Michigan. This sludge was landfilled in previously unlined trenches in the extreme northern portion of the site.

At the present time, the northern landfill is being heavily eroded by an intermittent stream flowing over the fill area. Waste including crushed drums and general refuse is exposed in this area. A strong "detergent like" odor is also present. Leachate seeps are observed at the southern toe of the northern landfill.

The original landfill is believed to be located southeast of this area. Neither the types nor quantities of wastes in the original landfill are known and their source cannot be confirmed. Waste in the original landfill was placed in unlined excavations. Directly west of the original landfill some liquid wastes, including metal hydroxides and waste plating baths, were disposed. These wastes were accepted from several nearby electroplating companies, including Gulf & Western and Knapp & Bolt. The area concerning the original landfill and metal hydroxide and plating bath disposal area has maintained a stable ground cover and surface slope for runoff. No ponding of water was observed in this area.

On September 22, 1983, an Ecology and Environment FIT team conducted a site inspection interview with Lester Bauer, Manager of the Northeast Gravel Company. On December 20, 1985, FIT performed a follow-up site visit to identify the waste disposal areas and the proposed placement of monitoring wells. Nine monitoring wells were installed by FIT during March 1986. The wells are screened in the sand and gravel aquifer. On April 16, 1986, the wells were sampled. The Graceland Church well located south-southeast of the site was also sampled. The downgradient wells MI0282-4 and MI0282-10 were contaminated with chloromethane and 1-1-dichloroethane. Downgradient well MI0282-6 was contaminated with chromium. Water samples collected from the Graceland Church contained copper at a concentration of 36.2 ug/L. Private domestic wells within the 3-mile radius are screened in sand and gravel deposits. The Plainfield well field is located approximately 1 mile southwest of the facility and also obtain water from glacial sands and gravels. Groundwater flow is toward the south. High conductivity values for the sand and gravels recorded at the site will promote the migration of contaminants. Approximately 16,142 people could be affected through groundwater contamination.